

In the claims:

1. (cancelled)

2. (currently amended) ~~As~~ A first access point operable to provide wireless network access to client devices coupled to a wireless network, the first access point comprising:

a receiver operable to detect a signal from a second access point, distinguish that signal from other signals, and measure strength of the signal; and

an indicator operable to provide an external indication of the signal strength, the indication being perceivable by a human being ~~access point's proximity to another access point, said another access point also for providing to client devices access to the wireless network,~~ wherein the external indication is ~~an LED, and wherein the LED blinks at a rate that is related to~~ the signal strength.

whereby proximity of the second access point relative to said another ~~the first~~ access point can be estimated without knowing the precise geographic location of the second access point.

3. (cancelled)

4. (cancelled)

5. (cancelled)

6. (cancelled)

7. (previously presented) An access point operable to provide wireless network access to client devices coupled to a wireless network, the access point comprising:

a controller capable of automatically choosing one of a plurality of radio frequencies on which to operate, said controller choosing said frequency after evaluating frequencies on which other access points may be operating, said controller comprising:

- a. logic for picking a frequency;
- b. logic for transmitting on said frequency;
- c. logic for receiving on said frequency;
- d. logic for evaluating whether other access points are heard on said frequency;
- e. logic for reducing transmission power;
- f. logic for evaluating whether said other access points are still heard on said frequency;
- g. logic for storing the transmission power at which no other access points are heard;
- h. logic for picking a next frequency as the frequency and repeating steps b-g until all of the plurality of frequencies has been picked;
- i. logic for comparing said stored transmission powers;
- j. logic for choosing for operation the frequency associated with the highest stored transmission power.

8. (cancelled)

9. (currently amended) A method executed by a first access point for facilitating deployment of the first access point comprising the steps of:

providing an access point operable to provide wireless network access to client devices coupled to a wireless network;

receiving a plurality of signals;

distinguishing, in the plurality of signals, a signal from a second access point;

determining a signal strength of the signal from the second access point; and

providing on the access point an external indication of the signal strength that is perceptible by a human being.

whereby the first access point's proximity relative to the second ~~another~~ access point can be estimated without knowing the precise geographic location of the second access point, ~~said another access point also for providing to client devices access to the wireless network;~~

wherein the external indication is an LED and the ~~wherein the step of providing on the~~ access point an external indication of the access point's proximity to another access point includes the step of:

causing the LED to blink at a rate that is related to the proximity of the access point to said another access point.

10. (cancelled)

11. (cancelled)

12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)

14. (previously presented) A method comprising the steps of:

providing an access point operable to provide wireless network access to client devices coupled to a wireless network;

automatically choosing by the access point one of a plurality of radio frequencies on which to operate, after evaluating frequencies on which other access points may be operating,

wherein the step of automatically choosing comprises the steps of:

- a. picking a frequency;
- b. transmitting on said frequency;
- c. receiving on said frequency;
- d. evaluating whether other access points are heard on said frequency;
- e. reducing transmission power;
- f. evaluating whether said other access points are still heard on said frequency;
- g. storing the transmission power at which no other access points are heard;
- h. picking a next frequency as the frequency and repeating steps b-g until all of the plurality of frequencies has been picked;
- i. comparing said stored transmission powers;
- j. choosing for operation the frequency associated with the highest stored transmission power.

15. (cancelled)

16. (currently amended) A program product comprising a computer readable medium having embodied therein a computer program for storing data, the computer program comprising:

logic operable to detect a signal from an access point, distinguish that signal from other signals, and measure strength of the signal; and

logic for causing ~~an~~ a human-perceptible external indication of the signal strength,
_____ whereby the relative proximity of the access point can be estimated without knowing the
precise geographic location of the access point~~an access point's proximity to another access~~
~~point, said access point and said another access point for providing to client devices access to a~~
~~wireless network,~~

~~wherein the external indication is an LED, and wherein the logic for causing an external indication causes the LED to blink at a rate that is related to the proximity of said access point to said another access point.~~

17. (cancelled)

18. (cancelled)

19. (cancelled)

20. (cancelled)

21. (previously presented) A program product comprising a computer readable medium having embodied therein a computer program for storing data, the computer program comprising:

logic for operation in an access point, the access point operable to provide wireless network access to client devices coupled to a wireless network, the logic for automatically choosing one of a plurality of radio frequencies on which to operate, the logic choosing said frequency after evaluating frequencies on which other access points may be operating, the logic comprising:

- a. logic for picking a frequency;
- b. logic for transmitting on said frequency;
- c. logic for receiving on said frequency;
- d. logic for evaluating whether other access points are heard on said frequency;
- e. logic for reducing transmission power;
- f. logic for evaluating whether said other access points are still heard on said frequency;
- g. logic for storing the transmission power at which no other access points are heard;
- h. logic for picking a next frequency as the frequency and repeating steps b-g until all of the plurality of frequencies has been picked;
- i. logic for comparing said stored transmission powers;
- j. logic for choosing for operation the frequency associated with the highest stored transmission power.